

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-22 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,366,913 to Fitler Jr. et al., hereinafter “Fitler.” Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-22 in view of the following.

Claims 23-24 have been newly added. No new matter has been added.

Specification Objection

The specification has been objected to for informalities. The specification has been amended to refer to Fig. 5 instead of Fig. 12. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification as originally filed at least at Fig. 5. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the specification objection.

Drawing Objection

The drawings have been objected to for not referring to reference numeral 60. Fig. 3 has been amended to include a reference to numeral 60. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification as originally filed at least at page 10, line 11. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the drawing objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent Claims 1, 5, 9, 15, and 21

Independent claims 1, 5, 9, 15, and 21 include features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference, namely as represented by claim 1:

1. A data structure implemented on a computer readable medium, the data structure comprising a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP) Universal Resource Locator (URL) query string including:

an HTTP portion representing that the query string is an HTTP URL query string;

an anchor point representing an anchor point within the directory service for a search to be conducted based on the query string; and
a path and query portion defining a search scope based on the anchor point for the search in the directory service. (emphasis added)

Fitler does not disclose or suggest a data structure having an HTTP portion representing that a query string is an HTTP URL query string, as recited by the claims. In contrast, Fitler discloses an **LDAP** URL. Thus, Fitler cannot anticipate the claims.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, 9, 15, and 21 are allowable. Additionally, inasmuch as dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-14, 16-20, and 22 (which have also been rejected) are dependent on one of claims 1, 5, 9, 15, and 21, these claims are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Independent Claims 9, 15, and 21

Independent claims 9, 15, and 21 include features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference, namely as represented by claim 9:

9. A method of retrieving information from a directory service via a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP) Universal Resource Locator (URL) query string, the method comprising:

parsing the query string into an anchor point portion representing an anchor point within the directory service for a search to be conducted based on the query string;

parsing the query string into a path and query portion defining a search scope based on the anchor point for the search in the directory service;

constructing a directory service compatible query from the plurality of parsed portions;
and

forwarding the constructed query to the directory service, wherein the directory service conducts the search based on the forwarded query to produce search results. (emphasis added)

Fitler does not disclose or suggest constructing a directory service compatible query from a plurality of parsed portions of a query string. Fitler discloses sending an LDAP URL to a Messaging Server, which in turn sends ***the same LDAP URL*** to Directory Server 120 (Fitler c. 9,

ll. 52-56). That is, the LDAP URL is simply *forwarded* along to the Directory Server without performing any other processing (e.g., without performing *constructing* a directory service compatible query). The claims, however, include the feature of constructing a directory service compatible query, thus providing the capability of accessing a variety of different directory servers and isolating the user from the different syntaxes of different directory servers. Because Fitler does not disclose or suggest constructing a directory service compatible query, Fitler cannot anticipate the claims.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 9, 15, and 21 are allowable. Additionally, inasmuch as dependent claims 10-14, 16-20, and 22 (which have also been rejected) are dependent on one of claims 9, 15, and 21, these claims are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 9-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Dependent Claims 13 and 19

Dependent claims 13 and 19 include features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference, namely as represented by claim 13:

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising comparing the anchor point against a predetermined set of anchor points and *granting access* to the directory service *if* the anchor point is contained in the predetermined set of anchor points. (emphasis added)

Fitler does not disclose or suggest comparing the anchor point against a predetermined set of anchor points and granting access to a directory service if the anchor point is contained in the predetermined set of anchor points. Fitler discloses a base directory and a range of how many directories below the base directory to search (Fitler c. 6, ll. 29-30 and c. 5, ll. 30-60). Fitler uses these parameters to *determine a search scope*. Fitler, however, does not disclose or suggest a list of predetermined set of anchor points. Nor does Fitler disclose using a predetermined set of anchor points in *conditionally* granting access to the directory service (*if* the anchor point is contained in the predetermined set of anchor points), as recited by the claims.

Accordingly, applicant submits that dependent claims 13 and 19 are allowable. Thus, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Independent Claim 21

Independent claim 21, as amended, includes features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference, namely:

21. (Currently Amended) A system for retrieving information from a directory service into an access device via a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP) Universal Resource Locator (URL) query string comprising:

a server connected to the access device through an HTTP connection, the server for receiving the query string, for parsing the received query string into a friendly name portion, and for determining whether the friendly name portion is a member of a predetermined set of friendly names and for *sending the query string for further processing if the friendly name portion is a member of the predetermined set of friendly names*; and

a diverting module for receiving the query string from the server if the friendly name portion is a member of the predetermined set of friendly names, for parsing the received query string, for constructing a directory service compatible query string based on the parsed string, and for forwarding the directory service compatible query string to the directory service.
(emphasis added)

Fitler does not disclose or suggest a server that determines whether a friendly name portion of a query string is a member of a predetermined set of friendly names. Nor does Fitler disclose or suggest a server that *conditionally* sends the query string for further processing (*if* the friendly name portion is a member of the predetermined set of friendly names). Fitler discloses sending an LDAP URL to a Messaging Server, which in turn simply forwards sends the LDAP URL to Directory Server 120 (Fitler c. 9, ll. 52-56). That is, the LDAP URL is sent directly to the Directory Server without checking whether or not the URL includes a friendly name.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 is allowable. Additionally, inasmuch as dependent claim 22 (which have also been rejected) is dependent on claims 21, this claims is patentable, at least by virtue of its dependency. Accordingly, applicant

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0241/160103.2
Application No.: 09/781,098
Office Action Dated: July 22, 2004

PATENT

respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 23-24 have been added to further define the invention. Support for the newly added claims can be found in the specification as originally filed at least in the claims as originally filed and at page 15, lines 6-15.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Raymond N. Scott Jr. at (215) 564-8951, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

Date: October 14, 2004



Raymond N. Scott, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 48,666

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0241/160103.2
Application No.: 09/781,098
Office Action Dated: July 22, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig(s) 3. The sheet(s), which includes Fig(s) 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet(s) including Fig(s) 2 and 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)